

# **ITCC Sourcing Solutions: Electronic Flight Bags (EFBs)/iPads and Tablets**

**POC:**

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### Introduction

This guide is to provide acquisition direction for immediate mission requirements for Electronic Flight Bags (iPads).

The Buy American Act (BAA) was reviewed. We determined that since iPads and tablets are commercial IT products they are exempted from the Buy American Act.<sup>1</sup>

The Trade Agreements Act (TAA), which applies to commercial IT requirements with an estimated value over \$202,000, was also reviewed in respect to tablet devices. We determined that contracts may be awarded for a non-TAA compliant solution, if no TAA-compliant proposal is received, or as a small business set aside.<sup>2</sup>

### Sourcing Solution

The recommended solution involves three steps.

#### Step 1)

Determine which tablet product meets the required specifications by answering these questions:

1. Does it need to be Network Compatible? The three (3) AFWAY tablet offerings have AF network connectivity; the rugged convertible tablet, the rugged slate tablet, and the network slate tablet. With the Apple operating system, the iPad is not network compatible. Android based tablet products are also not approved for network connectivity.
2. Is it for an office environment? Network Slate is capable of being the primary office computer, replacing desktops and laptops.
3. Is it for extreme conditions; heat, cold, sand, salt? The rugged convertible and the rugged slate tablet are made for these extreme conditions.
  - a. If a keyboard is needed, the rugged convertible tablet will fill this requirement.
  - b. If no keyboard is needed, the rugged slate tablet will fill this need.
4. Does it need to be Air Worthy? All iPads (first iPad through iPad Gen 4 and mini versions) have been certified to be Air Worthy by AMC's Test and Evaluation group; CONUS and OCONUS.
5. Does the cockpit size require a mini or regular iPad? E.g. C21 has a small cockpit where an iPad mini may be more appropriate.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Confirmed by AFLOA/JAQ, Enterprise Sourcing Group

<sup>2</sup> Confirmed by AFLOA/JAQ, Enterprise Sourcing Group

<sup>3</sup> HQ AMC/A3RP (2013 April 3)

**Step 2)**

Validate the requirement via figure 1 below to ensure requestor understands the Pros and Cons of the four (4) tablets.

<b>iPad &amp; iPad Mini <sup>4</sup></b>		<b>Rugged Convertible Tablet</b>		<b>Rugged Slate Tablet</b>		<b>Network Slate Tablet</b>	
<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
AMC Testing & Evaluation declared air worthiness for all iPads	Cannot be put on network	Ruggedized; can withstand impacts and extreme temperature, high and low	Has not been tested for air worthiness	Ruggedized; can withstand impacts and extreme temperature, high and low	Has not been tested for air worthiness	Network compatible	Has not been tested for air worthiness
Runs Apple iOS	Not compatible with Microsoft programs	Network compatible	Is not suited for office environment or laptop replacement	Network compatible	Is not suited for office environment or laptop replacement	Is suitable for laptop replacement	Is not suited for extreme environment
iPad mini is 1.8" smaller than normal iPads	Is not suited for laptop replacement	Runs full Windows OS		Runs full Windows OS		Is suited for an office environment	
	Is not suited for extreme environment	Has physical keyboard				Runs full Windows OS	

Figure 1. Tablet Capability Matrix

<sup>4</sup> AFLCMC/ESAC certified Apple's iPads for air worthiness: iPad 2 (2011), iPad 3 (2012), and iPad 4 & iPad Mini (2013).

**Step 3)**

Use the recommended solutions.

<b>Tablet Type</b>	<b>User or Type of Usage</b>	<b>ITCC Solutions</b>
iPad	Aircrews; specialized limited access	ITCC Cellular Services and Devices' BPAs <sup>5</sup>
Rugged Convertible Tablet	Severe environment; operational; has keyboard	AFWAY; Mandatory Use – AFI 33-112
Rugged Slate Tablet	Severe environment;	AFWAY; Mandatory Use – AFI 33-112
Network Slate Tablet	Office Laptop Replacement	AFWAY; Mandatory Use – AFI 33-112

Figure 2. 2013 Tablet Short-Term Recommendation

To purchase an iPad, go to the ITCC web portal, Cellular Services and Devices BPAs, and procure your requirements. This link will take you to the Cellular Services and Devices BPAs.

<https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af/USAF/ep/contentView.do?contentType=EDITORIAL&contentId=c6925EC1B17390FB5E044080020E329A9&channelPageId=s6925EC1335690FB5E044080020E329A9>

The ITCC's sourcing solution will enable the AF to obtain mission required iPads or tablets, with the appropriate approved levels of certification – Air Worthiness and Network Compatibility. Additionally, this solution leverages the AF buying power and provides standardization throughout the AF.

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<sup>5</sup> Cellular services are not required.